

this conflict between worker and university; 10,000 people gathered on the square in New Haven just last weekend.

It is time for the president of Yale University to uphold the values of the school and respect the working people who work there, the dining hall workers, the janitors, provide for arbitration, binding arbitration, and settle this matter.

Stop embarrassing the thousands upon thousands of Yale graduates, who every day go out and work to make life better for those who cannot work or improve their own lives. It is an unfortunate and disgraceful act, that we are continuing to undermine those who come to work every day to help students learn and be the best that they can be.

I say to the president of Yale University, settle this matter, and stop embarrassing those of us who believe that Yale has the greatest calling, to educate people who will serve not only the Nation, but save the world.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

THE CONNECTION BETWEEN THIMEROSAL AND NEURODEVELOPMENTAL DISORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, for the past 2 or 3 years, I have held hearings on the issue of autism in America. We used to have one out of 10,000 children that were autistic. That is where they will not focus on things, they will not talk, they yell, they stamp their feet, they have chronic diarrhea and constipation, they have all kinds of physical problems; and their parents lose either complete control over them or they cannot communicate with them, and it hurts these children for the rest of their lives, and ultimately they are going to be a burden on the taxpayers of this country.

It used to be one out of 10,000. Now it is one out of 150. We have an absolute epidemic of autism in America.

Many scientists who appeared before my committee believe and have substantial evidence that the mercury that is in vaccinations is a major contributing cause of this autism.

It used to be you only got one or two vaccinations. When I was a kid, if you had measles or mumps or anything like that, they would quarantine the house. Now they give vaccinations for all of that, and these vaccinations can contain a substance called Thimerosal. Thimerosal is 50 percent mercury, and children who are going to school get as many as 25 to 30 vaccinations before

the school will let them enter the front door.

The mercury has a cumulative effect. Once it gets in the brain, it starts destroying brain tissue and causes all kinds of neurological problems including autism. Yet the Food and Drug Administration has never, ever tested Thimerosal. It is used as a preservative. It is 50 percent mercury, they have never tested it, and yet it has been in vaccines for years.

We fought with them and our health agencies for some time to get that out of these children's vaccines, and they said they would do it. So this last week I wrote a letter to the head of the Department of Health and Human Services, Tommy Thompson, the Secretary of HHS; and I asked him to give me a list of those vaccinations that still contain mercury, Thimerosal. We found that 20 of the 43 vaccinations that are manufactured here in the United States still contain mercury. People are still having that injected into their bodies, adults as well as children.

Three or four of the major vaccinations that children get still have mercury in them, and vaccinations that have not been used, the serum that has not been used that is still on shelves in many of the doctors' offices, predate the dates they started taking mercury out of the children's vaccinations. So the FDA has not ordered them to take the mercury out, nor did the FDA notify doctors that Thimerosal-free vaccinations were preferred and that pediatricians should take the mercury out of their stocks of vaccines.

Recently, I wrote to the Secretary of HHS. I got the list. Twenty of the 43 currently manufactured vaccines in the U.S. still contain mercury, still are poisoning our children and adults. Our troops over in the Persian Gulf and Iraq were getting as many as 11 shots in one day, and most of those contain Thimerosal-mercury.

We have a rise in Alzheimer's as well, an epidemic of that; and I believe that that, in large part, is caused by the neurologically damaging mercury that is in vaccines.

Anyhow, HHS is still allowing vaccinations containing mercury to be given to children, such as the flu vaccine given to children 6 years old down to age 23 months. Hepatitis B, diphtheria, and tetanus still contain Thimerosal. Those are being given to children. Those lots that are still on the shelves that contain mercury are still being given to children. The Food and Drug Administration is not doing anything about it, and everybody in this country ought to be raising Cain, not just because their children have not been damaged, but because all of those children who are being damaged are going to be a burden in one way or another on the taxpayers of this country, and it is going to cost us literally trillions of dollars if this is not stopped.

We have to do everything we can to hold HHS and the vaccine manufactur-

ers' feet to the fire to get mercury out of vaccinations. Mercury is a toxic substance. It is toxic to the brain. It hurts neurologically anybody that has it injected into them. Yet they are still using it as a preservative. This is something that has to end.

These are the faces of children who have been damaged, just a small number of them; and we have got to do something about that. How would you like to have a child, like my grandson, who got nine shots in one day, seven of which contained mercury, and two days later he became autistic, a perfectly normal child.

These are things that cannot and must not be tolerated. We need to do everything we can to put all the pressure we can on our Health and Human Services agencies, FDA, CDC, and all the rest. Our Secretary of HHS, Tommy Thompson, who is a fine man, needs to pay attention to this and get this mercury out of these vaccinations as quickly as possible. It is hurting us all; not just the children, but the adults as well.

Scientific evidence continues to accumulate regarding the biologically plausible connection between mercury containing Thimerosal in vaccines, autism and other neurodevelopment disorders.

As a result, many parents have become understandably concerned about the safety of childhood vaccines.

And they should be considering that Thimerosal is 50 percent mercury by weight and mercury is one of the most toxic substances on the planet.

Even though the FDA asked vaccine manufacturers to remove Thimerosal from vaccines in 1999, they did not order them to do so.

Nor did FDA notify doctors that Thimerosal-free vaccines were preferred nor did they recommend that pediatricians remove Thimerosal vaccines from their stocks.

Recently, I asked the Secretary of HHS, Tommy Thompson and the FDA Commissioner, Dr. Mark McClellan to provide me with a list of all commercially available vaccines, including routinely prescribed pediatric vaccines, which currently contain Thimerosal.

Although they both assured me that none of the routinely recommended pediatric vaccines contain Thimerosal as an additive, 20 of the 43 currently manufactured and U.S. licensed vaccines still contain this dangerous substance.

FDA says it recognizes and supports the Public Health Services goal of reducing exposure to mercury.

If this is so, then they have to do more to ensure that all 43 vaccines currently manufactured and licensed in the United States are free of Thimerosal.

The most shocking example of a vaccine that still contains Thimerosal is the Influenza vaccine, commonly known as the Flu Shot, which is given to millions of Americans every year, adults and children alike.

In fact, last year, the President of the American Academy of Pediatrics issued a statement saying that the Academy encourages that the flu vaccine be given to all healthy children aged 6–23 months.

The harm that mercury could potentially inflict on such children is incalculable.